

Decisions on the request submitted by Guinea-Bissau for an extended deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention

1. The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Guinea-Bissau for an extended deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5.1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extended deadline until 31 December 2022.
2. In granting the request, the Meeting noted that, while it is unfortunate that Guinea-Bissau, having declared completion of its Article 5 obligations under the Convention, has discovered previously unknown mined areas under its jurisdiction or control, the Meeting welcomed Guinea-Bissau's adherence with the decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties on how to address such situations.
3. In granting the request, the Meeting welcomed the fact that Guinea-Bissau is requesting only the period of time necessary to gather and assess data on landmine contamination and other relevant information with a view to develop a meaningful forward-looking plan based on this information. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Guinea-Bissau ensuring that survey activities take into account best practices in a manner consistent with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).
4. The Meeting noted Guinea-Bissau's commitment to submit a subsequent request by 31 March 2022 containing plans based on a clearer understanding of the extent of the challenge and which project with greater certainty the amount of time that will be required to complete Article 5 implementation. In this regard, the Meeting noted the importance of Guinea-Bissau developing its request through an inclusive process, taking into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities and including the following information, amongst other:
 - a. A detailed, costed and multi-year work plan for the extension period, containing information on progress made, the result of assessment efforts, an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, using terminology consistent with the IMAS and disaggregated by the type of explosive ordnance, annual projections of which areas and amount of area would be dealt with during the requested extension period and by which organisation, matched to a detailed budget;
 - b. An overview of the survey and clearance methodologies to be employed, including the standards to be employed;
 - c. A detailed, costed and multi-year plans for context-specific mine risk education and reduction in affected communities that are sensitive to gender, age, disability and take the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities into account;
 - d. Plans to address the challenges faced by the National Mine Action Coordination Center (CAAMI) and efforts to ensure the establishment of a sustainable national capacity to address previously unknown mined areas, including newly mined areas, discovered following completion;
 - e. Information on how implementation efforts take into consideration the different needs and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men and the diverse needs and experiences of people in affected communities;

- f. The humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental implications of the extension with information on victims disaggregated by gender and age; and
 - g. Resource mobilisation efforts and external financing received, as well as resources made available by the government of Guinea-Bissau to support implementation efforts, including through efforts to facilitate operations of international demining organisations and indigenous capacities, and the results of these efforts.
5. The Meeting further noted the importance, in addition to Guinea-Bissau reporting to the States Parties as noted above, of keeping the States Parties regularly apprised of other pertinent developments regarding the implementation of Article 5 during the period covered by the request and other commitments made in the request at Intersessional Meetings and Meetings of the States Parties, as well as through its Article 7 reports using the Guide to Reporting.